PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DoD)

Research and Educational Program
for
Historically Black Colleges and Universities and
Minority-Serving Institutions (HBCU/MSI)

FISCAL YEAR 2010

Broad Agency Announcement W911NF-10-R-0006

Issued by Army Research Office (ARO)
on behalf of the
Office of the Director of Defense Research and Engineering
(Research Directorate/Basic Science Office)

Issued: May 2010
Proposals Due: August 6, 2010

OVERVIEW INFORMATION

A. Required Overview Content

- **Federal Agency Name(s) –** This Department of Defense program will be administered through the Army Research Office (ARO), Office of Naval Research (ONR) and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR).

- **Funding Opportunity Title –** Fiscal Year 2010 Department of Defense Research and Educational Program for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority-Serving Institutions (HBCU/MSI)

- **Announcement Type –** This is the initial announcement.

- **Funding Opportunity Number –** W911NF-10-R-0006

- **Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number(s) –** 12.630, Basic, Applied, and Advanced Research in Science and Engineering

- **Dates –** All proposals must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Friday, August 6, 2010.

B. Additional Overview Content

In accordance with Section 252 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (enacted in 10 U.S.C. 2362) and the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010, the Department of Defense (DoD) announces the fiscal year 2010 research and educational program for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority-Serving Institutions (HBCU/MSI). The program is executed under policy and guidance of the Office of the Director of Defense Research and Engineering (ODDR&E (Research Directorate/Basic Science Office)) and administered by the Army Research Office (ARO), the Office of Naval Research (ONR), and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR), referenced hereafter as "the Agencies."

The program aims to (a) enhance programs and capabilities in scientific and engineering disciplines critical to the national security functions of the DoD, (b) encourage greater participation in DoD programs and activities, (c) increase the number of graduates, including underrepresented minorities, in the fields of science, technology, engineering and/or mathematics (STEM), and (d) encourage research and educational collaboration with other institutions of higher education directed toward advancing the state of the art or increasing knowledge and understanding. Successful proposals will present innovative approaches to research and education that will impact curricula at all levels from pre-college to post graduate and contribute to the education of a diverse and capable workforce in STEM areas that are important to the DoD mission.

Proposals are solicited in two categories: (1) Centers of Excellence and (2) basic scientific research. Eligible institutions are encouraged to submit proposals in each category. See Section I.

Proposal topics must be relevant to research interests of the DoD, particularly the areas of interest to the Agencies. Research areas of interest to ARO, ONR, and AFOSR are available at the following web sites:

ARO: http://www.aro.army.mil
Select "Broad Agency Announcements," then select ARO Core Broad Agency Announcement W911NF-07-R-0003-03.

ONR: http://www.onr.navy.mil
Select "Find Broad Agency Announcements," then select 10-001.

AFOSR: http://www.afosr.af.mil
Select "Research Interest (AFOSR-BAA-2010-1)" on Homepage.

The documents referenced above provide detailed information about research topics of interest to the Agencies as well as technical points of contact (i.e., program managers) for each topical area. Principal investigators are encouraged to peruse these documents and consult program managers listed therein to explore areas of mutual interest.

NOTE: Use the above-referenced documents only to identify research areas of interest to the Agencies. Disregard instructions contained therein regarding proposal preparation, content, and submission requirements. Instead, **follow the instructions in this DoD solicitation.**

I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

1. Centers of Excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

Eligible institutions are encouraged to submit proposals to establish Centers of Excellence for Science, Technology, Engineering and/or Mathematics (STEM). A total of six Centers are planned, three with an education focus and three with a research focus. The Centers' goals include enhancing academic and/or research capabilities of the institutions and increasing the number of U.S. students earning degrees in scientific areas that are important to the DoD mission. Eligible institutions may submit no more than one proposal for an Education Center and one proposal for a Research Center.

A Center must comprise at least two institutions of higher education (e.g., the lead institution and one collaborating partner). The institution that submits the proposal will be the lead institution (prime grantee) and must be an eligible applicant as provided in Section III.1 below. Partnering institution(s) will be sub-grantees. Sub-grantees must be accredited institutions and are not limited to HBCUs or MSIs. Collaborating partners should be selected for their ability to contribute to the achievement of the Center's goals. The proposal must describe the roles and

responsibilities of the lead institution and its partner(s), including details of legal and managerial arrangements. Each collaborating partner must indicate its intent to participate in the Center program by means of a letter addressed to the principal investigator, which should be included in the proposal, but which will not be included in the page count. Costs associated with partners must be defined in the budget. Any sub-award to collaborating partners must not exceed 30 percent of the annual budget. If the involvement of any partner is to be supported by resources other than funds from this program, the budget should be clear regarding source(s) and amount(s).

A Center proposal may include a request for acquisition of equipment and/or instrumentation that will augment existing facilities, enhance curricula, or develop new laboratories, programs, and capabilities in STEM areas. This includes basic equipment for laboratory and classroom use as well as sophisticated instruments and computers (including software) for advanced studies and research important to the DoD.

Proposers are encouraged to be creative and to utilize talents and assets found within their communities. Outreach initiatives that attract students, including high school students, to the STEM studies are encouraged. Examples of these include activities such as workshops, seminars, and summer camps. In addition, similar programs that involve secondary school science and mathematics teachers in research projects, science workshops, or seminars are also encouraged as they may help stimulate classroom/laboratory activities at lower education levels and, thus, may help attract more young people to these areas of study.

Commitment by the college or university to the Center and to the individual selected to lead the Center is extremely important. There are numerous ways to demonstrate commitment. These include, but are not limited to, senior-level management or researcher involvement; dedicated facilities; renovation of facilities; salaries and benefits for faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students; tuition; stipends; contribution of supplies or equipment; travel costs; administrative costs; and contribution of non-Federal cash.

It is expected that each Center will develop a plan to integrate the efforts of multiple departments into a structured program whose primary goal is the enhancement of existing programs or the creation of new ones that are designed to attract and retain undergraduate students in STEM programs and to encourage advanced studies. Elements of such a plan might include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) Recruitment of high school, junior/community college, or promising undergraduate students who have outstanding grades and test scores in science and mathematics;
(2) Focused educational activities for students, e.g., summer camps, internships, workshops, seminars;
(3) Financial support for students, e.g., scholarships, fellowships, stipends;
(4) Personnel exchanges such as visiting faculty and guest lecturers;
(5) Field trips and other interactions with working scientists and engineers;
(6) Mentors; and
(7) Cooperative work/study opportunities.

These are only suggestions. Institutions are encouraged to develop innovative approaches that utilize their unique assets, capabilities, locations, and personnel. Proposals should indicate methods the institution will use to foster an environment that encourages students to pursue degrees in STEM fields that are relevant to the DoD mission.

A. Education Center – The goals of an Education Center include strengthening academic programs in STEM areas important to DoD and increasing the number of graduates, including underrepresented minorities, who obtain degrees in these areas. Program emphasis should be on attracting high school and college students to these areas of study, then nurturing and retaining them in a learning environment that provides a firm foundation for completion of the baccalaureate degree and encourages them to pursue graduate degrees in these fields. Multidisciplinary studies are encouraged.

Community colleges or junior colleges proposing to establish a Center must demonstrate or establish a program in which their students will continue studies toward completion of a baccalaureate degree in STEM disciplines. The institution granting the baccalaureate degree need not be an HBCU or MSI, but it must formally agree to assist the students who transfer from the Center.

B. Research Center – The goals of a Research Center include strengthening scientific research programs in STEM areas that support the DoD mission and increasing the number of graduates, including underrepresented minorities, who obtain degrees in these areas. A Research Center is envisioned as a group of dedicated educators with research backgrounds who have access to facilities that enable the conduct of research and who are motivated to mentor students in scientific studies and encourage the pursuit of advanced degrees.

A Research Center must conduct research in one or more areas of research interest to DoD, particularly those of interest to ARO, ONR, and/or AFOSR. In addition, it must involve undergraduate and graduate students in research activities, encourage scholarly excellence, and support their pursuit of baccalaureate and/or advanced degrees. Multidisciplinary research is encouraged.

2. Basic Research

Eligible institutions are encouraged to submit research proposals in areas of scientific interest to the DoD, particularly those of interest to ARO, ONR, and/or AFOSR (see Overview Information, Paragraph B of this announcement). Each eligible institution may submit up to two research proposals. Research projects may be conducted by a single principal investigator working within a traditional single-institution environment or as a collaborative effort with investigators at one or more other accredited institutions of higher education. Collaborations are not limited to other HBCUs or MSIs. Program funds may be sub-allocated to collaborators. The proposal must describe the roles and responsibilities of each collaborator. Provide name and location of collaborating institution(s) proposed to be involved, names and credentials of collaborating scientists, and describe the coordination procedures that will be employed to assure

success of the project. Partners in the collaboration should describe their support of the project via a letter addressed to the principal investigator. Such letter(s) of support must be included with the proposal, but they will not be included in the page count.

Factors such as geographical location, research capabilities, facilities and equipment are unique to each institution. Therefore, the DoD will not prescribe the structure for a successful research project. Instead, it expects eligible institutions to respond with creative proposals that meet the unique needs of each respective institution. All proposals will be given full consideration and will be evaluated on scientific merit and other criteria listed in Section V of this announcement.

II. AWARD INFORMATION

Approximately $45 million is expected to be available for new awards under this solicitation. It is anticipated that available funds will support six Centers of Excellence (three focused on STEM education and three focused on STEM research) and approximately 25 research projects. All awards will be based on merit competition following evaluations by scientists and engineers of the Agencies. All awards will be made by the Army Research Office as project grants.

Centers will be supported at a level up to $1.0 million per year for a four-year base period with one additional year possible as an option for a maximum duration of five years. Funding levels for the optional fifth year will range from $0.6 million to $1.0 million contingent upon having met technical goals, reporting requirements, and the availability of funds.

Research proposals will be supported at a level up to $125,000 per 12-month period for a total performance period of 36 months. If equipment or instrumentation is necessary to carry out the proposed research, it must be budgeted in the first 12-month period and shall not exceed $200,000. Thus, a research proposal with equipment or instrumentation acquisition included may be valued up to $575,000.

***NOTE*: Sub-awards are allowable for up to 30 percent of the annual budget.**

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

1. Eligible Applicants

This competition is open only to institutions identified on the U.S. Department of Education Postsecondary Minority Institutions list. The list is compiled by the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, using enrollment data reported by postsecondary institutions to the National Center for Integrated Statistics and the Office for Civil Rights in the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) fall enrollment survey, formerly called the Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS). The list is available at http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/edlite-minorityinst-list.html. Questions concerning the list must be directed to the U.S. Department of Education at (888) 863-6515.

An institution whose name does not appear on the list but who has received documents from the Department of Education certifying their minority status must submit a copy of such certification with their proposal(s).

Please note that recruitment and selection procedures for students affected by an award under this solicitation must comply with Section 2000d of Title 42, United States Code, which provides: *No person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.*

2. **Cost Sharing or Matching -** Cost sharing or matching is not a requirement.

IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Proposals must be submitted electronically through Grants.gov. There are several one-time actions your institution must complete in order to submit applications through Grants.gov (e.g., obtain a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number; register with the Central Contract Registry (CCR); register with the credential provider; register with Grants.gov; and obtain approval for an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) to submit applications on behalf of the organization). Go to http:www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp for further information. Use the Grants.Gov Organization Registration Checklist, which may be accessed at http://www.grants.gov/applicants/register_your_organization.jsp to guide you through the process.

Questions: Questions relating to the registration process, system requirements, how an application form works, or the submittal process should be directed to Grants.gov at 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov.

VERY IMPORTANT: In order to view, complete, and submit an application package, you will need to download the appropriate software packages. Go to http://www.grants.gov/applicants/apply_for_grants.jsp for further information.

1. Submitting the Application

Application forms and instructions are available at Grants.gov. To access these materials, go to http://www.grants.gov, select "Apply for Grants," and then select "Download Application Package." Enter the CFDA number, 12.630, Basic, Applied, and Advanced Research in Science and Engineering. You could also enter the funding opportunity number for this announcement, W911NF-10-R-0006.

Application Forms – The forms are contained in the Application Package available through the Grants.gov application process. Offerors must complete the mandatory forms and any optional forms that are applicable (e.g., SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities) in accordance with the instructions on the forms and the additional instructions below. The required fields should be completed in accordance with the "pop-up" instructions on the forms. To activate the instructions, turn on the "Help Mode" (icon with the pointer and question mark at the top of the form). Files that are attached to the forms must be in Adobe Portable Document Form (PDF) unless otherwise specified in this announcement.

The following formatting rules apply for the file attachments except as indicated below:

Paper size when printed – 8.5 x 11-inch white paper, one-sided
Margins – 1 inch
Spacing – single
Font – No smaller than Times New Roman, 12 point font (excluding mandatory forms)
Number of pages – 25

The SF 424 (R&R) cover page must be typed using upper and lower case letters. **The Grants.gov forms, including the SF 424 (R&R) cover page, and Research & Related Budget are not included in the page count. The 25-page limit applies to the technical proposal which consists of the following: Project Summary/Abstract; Project Narrative; Bibliography & References Cited; Facilities and Other Resources; and Equipment (all of which are described below).** Pages exceeding this limit will not be considered in the proposal evaluation.

The following SF 424 forms and, as applicable, attachments are required for all proposals:

FORM: SF 424 (R&R) cover page – Complete this form first to populate data in other forms. Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) usernames and passwords serve as "electronic signatures" when your organization submits applications through Grants.gov. By using the SF 424 (R&R), proposers are providing the certification required by 32 CFR Part 28 regarding lobbying as contained in Section VI.2.

FORM: Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile – Biographical sketches are required for the Principal Investigator and for other key personnel (not to exceed three pages each). These will not be included in the page count. Please be sure to include education and years.

To attach biographical sketches, click "Add Attachment."

FORM: Research & Related Other Project Information – Complete questions 1 through 5 and attach files. The files must comply with the following instructions:

Project Summary/Abstract (Field 7 on the form) – The project summary/abstract should be a **single page** that provides a concise description of the proposed project including objective(s) of the project, approaches to be utilized, anticipated outcomes, and the impact the project is expected to have on capabilities of the institution(s), on students, and on the DoD mission. It should identify the lead Principal Investigator, partnering institutions/investigators, and other key personnel critical to the project's success. The abstract should indicate the topical

area(s) relevant to the Agencies' research interests (see Overview Information, Section B of this announcement) and should also provide suggested proposal reviewer information in the following format:

(a) Lead Agency to evaluate the proposal: Specify ARO, ONR, or AFOSR
(b) Scientific Division(s) or Directorate(s), if known, and
(c) Technical Area(s)/Program Officer(s), if known.

To attach a project summary/abstract, click "Add Attachment."

Project Narrative (Field 8 on the form) – Select from below as applicable:

Narrative for STEM Education Center of Excellence

a. Describe the proposed Education Center. State the objectives and approach to be used and provide details about enhancements planned for STEM programs. Describe how the proposed Center would enhance multidisciplinary studies. Describe current facilities and indicate whether upgrades are planned.

b. Describe outreach initiatives and plans for attracting and retaining students in STEM programs.

c. Describe the organizational structure of the proposed Center. Provide information about each collaborating institution and how their involvement will help achieve the Center's goals. Describe the level of support the Center expects to receive from the institution's senior-level administrators, department leaders, and other organizational components.

d. Describe the management plan for the Center. This should include details relating to STEM educational programs as well as administrative support.

e. Describe activities that will foster an environment conducive to STEM studies and encourage retention of students and completion of degrees. These might include mentors, scholarships, stipends, field trips, seminars, internships, and work/study opportunities.

To attach the project narrative, click "Add Attachment."

Narrative for STEM Research Center of Excellence

a. Describe the proposed Research Center. State the objectives and approaches to be used. Describe anticipated results as they relate to the program's primary goals, the significance of the proposed effort to the advancement of knowledge, and the potential of the Center to educate future scientists and engineers in disciplines critical to national defense.

b. Describe how the proposed research will contribute to the national defense mission.

c. Describe how the proposed research will lead to new capabilities or enhance existing capabilities that will broaden the university's research base in STEM disciplines and support national defense research interests.

d. Describe the organizational structure of the proposed Center. Provide information about each collaborating institution and how their involvement will help achieve the Center's goals. Describe the level of support the Center expects to receive from the institution's senior-level administrators, department leaders, and other organizational components.

e. Describe the management plan for the Center. This should include details relating to STEM educational programs as well as administrative support.

f. Describe activities that will foster an environment conducive to STEM studies and encourage retention of students and completion of degrees. These might include mentoring, scholarships, stipends, field trips, seminars, internships, and work/study opportunities.

To attach the project narrative, click "Add Attachment

Narrative for Basic Research Proposal

a. Describe in detail the research to be undertaken. State the objectives and approaches to be used and the relationship to the state of knowledge in the field and to comparable work elsewhere.

b. Describe the nature of anticipated results and, if known, the manner in which the work will contribute to the DoD mission, particularly as it relates to the research interests of ARO, ONR, and/or AFOSR.

c. Describe the facilities available for performing the proposed research.

d. Describe the involvement of undergraduate and graduate students in the research effort. Estimate the number of students who will be directly associated with the project.

To attach the project narrative, click "Add Attachment."

Bibliography & References Cited (Field 9 on the form) – Include an appropriate bibliography and list of literature citations, if applicable.

To attach a bibliography, click "Add Attachment."

Facilities and Other Resources (Field 10 on the form) – Describe the facilities available for the proposed center(s) and/or for performing the proposed research. Describe any additional facilities or equipment that the institution proposes to acquire.

To attach facilities information, click "Add Attachment."

Equipment (Field 11 on the form) – Provide a rationale for each item of equipment/instrumentation requested in the budget. Describe how each item will contribute to achieving the goals of the proposal and enhancing the educational and/or research capabilities of the institution. For example, under a STEM Education Center, will the equipment be available to students as part of focused educational activities such as summer camps or, under a STEM Research Center, will the equipment be available to other faculty members? Will the equipment be available for student research projects? Describe how the proposed equipment/ instrumentation will interface with existing facilities or upgrade other equipment currently available. As applicable, also indicate (1) any special circumstances regarding the installation of the equipment (for example, will installation require plumbing or electrical upgrades (if so, this should be budgeted); (2) the estimated useful life of the equipment and the plan to service and maintain it, including source(s) of funds and (3) if faculty members will require training for optimum use of the equipment (if so, this should be budgeted).

To attach equipment information, click "Add Attachment."

FORM: SF 424 (R&R) Research & Related Budget – Complete Sections A through J and attach a budget justification in Section K. The budget justification should provide additional data (not included in Sections A through J) by element of cost, sufficient to meet the guidance provided below and ensure meaningful evaluation.

The budget must define the period of performance (assume a proposed start date of March 1, 2011), the total cost of the project, and the amount and source(s) of project funding (i.e., funds requested from DoD; any funds provided under current grants or contracts with DoD or other federal agencies; and any non-federal funds that will be utilized for the project). The project costs must be shown in total as well as broken down by cost elements for each year of the program. Use a separate Research & Related Budget form for each year. The Research & Related Budget-Cumulative Budget form will reflect the total costs. The following additional guidance is provided:

a. Salary Costs: For all employees/labor categories, indicate the amount of time being charged to the proposed project (e.g., number of months) and show resulting costs based on current or projected salary and fringe benefits.

b. Equipment: Describe any equipment to be acquired and the basis of cost estimates. Costs should be based on recent quotations from manufacturers or distributors.

c. Travel: Identify any travel requirements associated with the proposed research and define its relationship to the project. List proposed destinations, cost estimate, and basis of cost estimate. Domestic travel must not exceed $2,500 per year per principal investigator. Special approval is required for foreign travel which is limited to $1,800 per year per principal investigator.

d. Participant/Trainee Support Costs: Estimate tuition, stipends, fees, and health insurance for students, if applicable. Travel costs must follow the above guidelines.

e. Other Direct Costs:

Materials and Supplies: Estimate costs of materials and supplies. List types of materials needed and costs. Provide basis for cost estimates.

Publication Costs: Estimate the costs of publishing and reporting research results.

Consultant Services: Provide rationale for using consultant services, indicate level of involvement, and list all associated fees.

Subaward Costs: Provide a description of the work to be performed by subrecipients and a detailed budget for each. For subaward budgets, use the Research & Related Budget form. Under Budget Type, select "Subaward/Consortium."

Equipment Rental/User Fees: Estimate anticipated direct costs such as rental for computers or other equipment and facility usage fees. Unusual or expensive items should be fully justified.

Other: Add in other proposed direct costs (such as communications) under Other Direct Costs on the Research & Related budget form.

f. Indirect Costs (Overhead, General and Administrative, and Other: Provide the most recent rates, dates of negotiations, the period to which the rates apply, and a statement identifying whether the proposed rates are provisional or fixed. If the rates have been negotiated by a Government agency, state when and by which agency. Include a copy of any current indirect rate agreement.

Note: In accordance with the Limitation of Payments for Indirect Costs (DoD Defense Appropriation Act 2010), no funds made available under this act may be used to pay indirect costs that exceed thirty-five percent of the total amount of the agreement for basic research.

Indirect costs exceeding thirty-five percent of the total amount to be reimbursed from that appropriation will be considered unallowable and will not be reimbursed. If subsequent audit indicates indirect costs exceeding thirty-five percent of the total amount paid from this appropriation have been dispersed, the recipient will refund the amount over the statutory limitation to the Government.

g. Total Direct and Indirect Costs: Provide the total costs, year by year, and a cost summary for the entire proposed period.

h. Cost Sharing or Matching: Cost sharing or matching is not required.

To attach the budget justification at Section K, click "Add Attachment."

Note: Be sure that the total amount requested in the budget agrees with the amount entered in Block #16 of the Proposal Cover Page (form SF 424 (R&R)).

The following form is required only if applicable:

FORM: Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (Standard Form LLL) – If applicable, this form must be completed. This form is applicable if any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the application for a grant under this BAA.

2. Submission Dates and Times

Proposals must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Friday, August 6, 2010.

Proposal Receipt Notices – After a proposal is submitted to Grants.gov, the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) will receive a series of three emails from Grants.gov. The first two emails should be received within 24 to 48 hours after submission. The first email will confirm receipt of the application by the Grants.gov system and the second will indicate that the application has either been successfully validated by the system prior to transmission to the grantor agency or has been rejected due to errors. A third email should be received once the agency has confirmed receipt of the proposal. The document, Tracking Your Application Package, located at http://www.grants.gov/assets/TrackingYourApplicationPackage.pdf explains this process.

Late Submission of Proposals – Any proposal submitted through Grants.gov where the date and time of submission (as recorded in the first email from Grants.gov) is after the specified deadline for proposal submission, will be considered late and will not be evaluated unless the Grants.gov website was not operational on the due date and was unable to receive the proposal submission. If this occurs, the time specified for the receipt of proposals through Grants.gov will be extended to the same time of day specified in this BAA on the first workday on which the Grants.gov website is operational.

It is recommended that grant applications be submitted 24-48 hours prior to the due date and time to avoid delays caused by high system usage immediately prior to the due date and time and/or other potential electronic submission problems.

V. APPLICATIOIN REVIEW INFORMATION

1. Evaluation Criteria

A. Evaluation Criteria for Education Centers – Primary evaluation criteria (of equal importance) for STEM Education Centers are:

a. Scientific and technical merit of the proposal and its potential to achieve the educational objectives of the program, including the extent to which the proposed effort would enhance multidisciplinary studies relative to current capabilities;

b. Outreach initiatives proposed for increasing and maintaining the educational pipeline for scientific studies and the potential of the proposed program to educate future scientists and engineers in STEM disciplines critical to the DoD mission.

c. Commitment by the institution to the Center and to the individual selected to lead the Center, evidenced by indicators such as senior administrator participation, senior-level endorsement, tenured faculty participation, and dedicated facilities.

d. Management plan for the Center, including, for example, the degree to which the proposed program provides high quality technical leadership, dedicated administrative personnel; and an organizational structure with management controls that are adequate to ensure success of the program.

Secondary evaluation criteria which are of less importance than primary evaluation criteria but of equal importance to each other are:

e. Personnel qualifications, capabilities, availability, and experience. For example, it is expected that key research and/or administrative personnel will commit time and attention to ensure success of the program.

f. Budgetary realism and cost effectiveness of the program.

B. Evaluation Criteria for Research Centers – Primary evaluation criteria (of equal importance) for STEM Research Centers are:

a. Scientific and technical merit of the proposal and its potential to achieve the research objectives of the program, including the extent to which the proposed effort would enhance multidisciplinary studies in STEM disciplines relative to current capabilities;

b. Potential contributions of the proposed research to the national defense mission;

c. Likelihood of the proposed research to develop new capabilities or enhance existing capabilities that will broaden the institution's research base in support of national defense;

d. Commitment by the institution to the Center and to the individual selected to lead the Center evidenced by indicators such as senior administrator participation, senior-level endorsement, tenured faculty participation, and dedicated facilities.

Secondary evaluation criteria, which are of less importance than primary criteria but of equal importance to each other, are:

e. Potential of the proposed program to educate future scientists and engineers in STEM disciplines critical to the defense mission;

f. Qualifications, capabilities, experience, and past research accomplishments of the Principal Investigator and other key personnel who are critical to achieving the objectives of the proposal;

g. Budgetary realism and cost effectiveness of the program.

C. Evaluation Criteria for Research Proposals – Primary evaluation criteria (of equal importance to each other) are:

a. Scientific and technical merits of the proposed research;

b. Potential contributions of the proposed research to the mission of the DoD and particularly to the research interests of the Agencies;

c. Likelihood of the proposed project to develop new research capabilities or enhance existing research capabilities and to broaden the research base in support of national defense;

d. Qualifications, capabilities, experience, and research accomplishments of the Principal Investigator and other key personnel whose involvement is critical to achieving the objectives of the proposal;

Secondary evaluation criteria, of less importance than primary criteria but of equal importance to each other, are:

e. The potential of the project to contribute to the education of future scientists and engineers in STEM disciplines critical to the defense mission, particularly in research areas of interest to the Agencies;

f. Past, present or proposed collaborative research and education activities with other colleges/universities.

g. Budgetary realism and cost effectiveness of the proposal.

2. Review and Selection Process – Scientists and engineers of ARO, ONR, and AFOSR will evaluate proposals according to the above criteria. The most meritorious proposals will be recommended for award. Approval of the recommendation is the authority of the Deputy Director of Defense Research and Engineering (Research Directorate/Basic Science Office).

3. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates – An announcement of selections will be made by the DoD Public Affairs Office via a News Release that is expected to be available on or around November 1, 2010 at http://www.defenselink.mil/releases (search for title containing "DoD Awards to HBCU/MSI"). Grant awards are expected to be in place no later than March 1, 2011. This date should be cited as the start date for the proposal performance period on the Proposal Cover (SF 424 (R&R)) and for budget planning purposes.

VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

1. Award Notices

When the DoD News Release is posted, ARO will send written notification via e-mail to all Principal Investigators who submitted a proposal. The notification of a successful proposal must not be regarded as an authorization to commit or expend funds (except at the recipient's own risk, to the extent that the recipient elects to charge up to 90 days of preaward costs, as permitted under paragraph 32.25(d)(2)(i) of 32 CFR Part 32). The Government is not obligated to provide any funding until a Government Grants Officer signs the grant award document.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Lobbying – Federal regulations (Appendix A to 32 CFR Part 28) require certification regarding lobbying at the time of proposal submission. By signing and submitting the required cover page (SF 424 R&R), the proposer is certifying compliance with this regulation, which provides:

(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.

(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all sub awards at all tiers (including sub contracts, sub grants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all sub recipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by 31 U.S.C. Sec. 1352, as implemented by the DoD at 32 CFR Part 28. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than $10,000 and not more than $100,000 for each such failure.

3. Reporting Requirements

Reporting requirements and instructions for report preparation will be included in the grant award document signed by the Grants Officer.

4. Equipment

In compliance with provisions of 31 U.S.C. 6306 and with the intent of this program to enhance university capabilities in STEM education and research, title to instrumentation and equipment acquired under this solicitation will be vested with the university without further obligation to the government.

5. Central Contractor Registration Database (CCR)

In accordance with DOD policy, prospective grantees must be registered in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) database prior to award of a grant. By submission of an offer resulting from this BAA, the offeror acknowledges the requirement that a prospective grantee must be registered in the CCR database prior to the award, during performance, and through final payment of any grant resulting from this BAA. The CCR may be accessed at http://www.ccr.gov. Assistance with registration is available at 1-888-227-2423.

VII. AGENCY CONTACTS

Questions regarding program policy shall be directed to:

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